

CLAIMS

1. A felt for forming a pattern in a tissue sheet comprising:

5 a) a water-holding substrate having a first surface and a second surface;

b) a raised patterned layer joined to the first surface of the substrate, said raised pattern layer being made of a carrier with a pattern stitched into it;

c) an attachment mechanism joining the substrate to the raised patterned layer;

10 d) the raised pattern layer having a first face and an opposite second face, the second face being in contact with the first surface of the substrate; and

e) the first face of the raised pattern layer having a plurality of projections arranged in a design on its first face comprising said stitched pattern.

2. The felt of claim 1 wherein the attachment mechanism is selected from the group consisting of needling and an adhesive.

3. The felt of claim 1 wherein the substrate comprises a woven base fabric.

20 4. The felt of claim 1 further including a bonding coating layer coated over the first face of the raised pattern layer.

5. The felt of claim 4 wherein the bonding coating layer comprises a porous polymeric material.

25 6. The felt of claim 5 wherein the porous polymeric material comprises an acrylic nitril latex coating made by a foaming process.

7. The felt of claim 1 wherein the carrier comprises a non-woven, hydrophobic material.

8. The felt of claim 7 wherein the non-woven hydrophobic material comprises spunbond nylon fibers.

9. A method for making a tissue sheet having increased bulk and visual aesthetics using a raised pattern felt comprising the steps of:

- 5           a) forming paper making fibers into a basesheet;
- b) bringing the basesheet into contact with a patterned felt made from a water-holding substrate joined to a carrier, the carrier having the pattern stitched into it forming a plurality of projections;
- 10          c) pressing the basesheet against the patterned felt to form a pattern in the basesheet; and
- d) drying the basesheet.

10. The method of claim 9 wherein the drying step is partially accomplished by transferring water from the basesheet into the felt during the pressing step.

15. The method of claim 9 wherein the basesheet is pressed against a heated drying cylinder and dried to a final dryness while maintaining the pattern in the web.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein the heated drying cylinder is a Yankee dryer.